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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/468,639	12/22/1999	TOYOSHI KAWADA	1081.1084/JD	3873

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EXAMINER

LIANG, REGINA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2674

DATE MAILED: 05/28/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/468,639

Applicant(s)

Kawada et al

Examiner

Regina Liang

Art Unit

2674



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 3, 2002

2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-26 is/are pending in the application

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-26 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirements

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2674

DETAILED ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Claims 1, 14, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The recitation in claim 1 last paragraph is vague and indefinite since it is not clear as to whether "a drive voltage" recited in lines 2 and 4 of the last paragraph are the same or different?

Claim 15 is indefinite since it depends on canceled claim 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. Claims 1, 3-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Andoh et al (US. PAT. NO. 4,044,349 hereinafter Andoh).

Figs. 1, 2 of Andoh discloses a plasma display panel device having first and second electrodes (X and Y electrodes) provided apart from one another and a ground power source, and performing display by generating a discharge between the first and second electrodes, the plasma display panel device comprising a drive circuit (driver 112) that connects the first and second electrodes to power sources that are different from the ground power source or the drive circuit that changes the first and

Art Unit: 2674

second electrodes from a state of being connected to a first or/and second power sources different from the ground power source to a state of being connected to a second or/and third or/and fourth power sources different from the ground power source so as to apply a drive voltage between the two electrodes when drive voltage pulses are to be applied between the first and second electrodes (see Fig. 4 and col. 5, line 53 to col. 6, line 46)

4. Claims 1, 3-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakuma (US. PAT. NO. 4,384,287).

Sakuma discloses a plasma display panel device having first and second electrodes (301, 302) provided apart from one another and a ground power source, and performing display by generating a discharge between the first and second electrodes, the plasma display panel device comprising a drive circuit (Fig. 6) that connects the first and second electrodes to power sources that are different from the ground power source or the drive circuit that changes the first and second electrodes from a state of being connected to a first or/and second power sources different from the ground power source to a state of being connected to a second or/and third or/and fourth power sources different from the ground power source so as to apply a drive voltage between the two electrodes when drive voltage pulses are to be applied between the first and second electrodes (see Figs. 6-12 and col. 5, lines 14-45, col. 7, line 11 to col. 8, line 20).

Art Unit: 2674

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 5/03/2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants' remarks regarding the Andoh and Sakuma on pages 8-10 are not persuasive. As shown in Figs. 4A-4D, a driving circuit applies a positive and a negative voltages to the X and Y electrodes which reads on a drive circuit connects the first and second electrodes to power sources that are different from the ground power source so as to apply a drive voltage between the two electrodes as claimed. Andoh never disclose the X and Y electrodes are connected to the ground level and to have the ground level as a reference. Fig. 3 of Andoh shows the reference level is not a ground level, for example, see Figs. 4C and 4D, the reference level for X and Y electrodes are Vs which has voltage source as indicated in Fig. 3. Therefore, Andoh does not constitute a "teaching-away" from applicants' invention.

Sakuma also teaches limitation as claimed, see the rejection above.

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be

Art Unit: 2674

calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Regina Liang whose telephone number is (703) 305-4719. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Hjerpe, can be reached on (703) 305-4709.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:


Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314, (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.


REGINA LIANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2674

RL